



State of New Hampshire
RIVERS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302



September 15, 2006

Michael P. Nolin, Commissioner
N.H. Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Nolin:

I am pleased to enclose the findings and recommendations of the NH Stream Gage Task Force (SGTF) in a final report titled "*A strategy to implement and fund a long-term, multi-purpose New Hampshire Stream Gage Network*"

Stream gages are an essential management and research tool. They are used daily by thousands to design highway bridges and culverts, map floodplains, to protect water quality and regulate pollutant discharges, for flood and drought warnings, for recreation and many other purposes. And flow gages are critical in the State's ongoing development of instream flow and water management plans. Following significant and harmful cuts in the State's streamflow gage network during 2004 and again in 2005, the NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) determined the need to implement and fund a long-term, multi-purpose New Hampshire Stream Gage Network. The RMAC, in its December 20, 2005 resolution, recommended that a task force be established to evaluate the existing network and the data needs not met.

The RMAC appreciates your leadership in implementing the RMAC's recommendation by creating a NH Stream Gage Task Force (SGTF). The SGTF convened three times beginning May 2, 2006, evaluating and developing specific recommendations relative to NH's gaging needs. The attached report concludes the effort of the SGTF. The RMAC looks forward to working with the Commissioner's office in implementing the recommendations of the SGTF.

Again, thank you for your support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Kimball, Ph.D.,
SGTF Member and
Rivers Management Advisory Committee Chairman

cc:

SGTF Members (via electronic mail)

RMAC Members (via electronic mail)

LAC Chairs (via electronic mail)

Paul Currier, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, DES (via electronic mail)

Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator, DES (via electronic mail)

Wayne Ives, NH Instream Flow Specialist, DES (via electronic mail)